

Amendments to the Claims

1-28. (Canceled).

29. (New). A method of cleaning ink residue from an inkjet printhead having an ink ejecting orifice plate in a first plane and an interconnection feature in a second plane which is non-planar with said first plane, with the orifice plate and the interconnection feature being joined together along an edge, comprising:

wiping the interconnection feature along said interconnection feature to said edge;

wiping said edge; and

wiping said orifice plate from said edge.

30. (New). A method according to claim 29 wherein said printhead is held stationary during said wiping steps.

31. (New). A method according to claim 29 wherein said step of wiping the interconnection feature comprises scooping ink residue off of the interconnection feature.

32. (New). A method according to claim 29 wherein said step of wiping said edge comprises scooping ink residue off of the edge.

33. (New). A method according to claim 29 wherein said step of wiping said orifice plate comprises scooping ink residue off of the orifice plate.

34. (New). A method according to claim 29 further comprising, prior to said wiping steps:

wicking ink from nozzles of the orifice plate; and  
dissolving ink residue on the orifice plate with the wicked ink.

35. (New). A method according to claim 34 wherein:  
said step of wicking ink comprises extracting ink through capillary forces generated by dragging a first wiper blade across the orifice plate; and

said wiping steps comprise dragging a second wiper blade across the interconnection feature, the edge and the orifice plate.

36. (New). A method according to claim 29 wherein said first and second planes are substantially perpendicular.

37. (New) A wiper system for cleaning ink residue from a printhead in an inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

a support; and  
a wiper blade supported by said support to wipe ink residue from the printhead through relative motion between said printhead and said wiper blade, said blade having a length and a leading surface with a concave contour, said blade tapering along said length to a wiping tip.

38. (New). A wiper system according to claim 37 wherein said blade has a first thickness in a base region

and a second thickness in a tip region which is less than said first thickness.

39. (New). A wiper system according to claim 37 wherein said blade has a second surface opposite said leading surface, said opposite surface having a convex contour.

40. (New). A wiper system according to claim 37 wherein:

said support comprises a sled which is movable between a rest position and a wiping stroke; and

wherein said relative motion comprises holding the printhead stationary while moving the wiper blade through a wiping stroke.

41. (New). A wiper system according to claim 37 wherein during wiping said wiper blade leading surface has a contour with both concave and convex components.

42. (New). A wiper system according to claim 37 wherein during wiping said wiper blade leading surface retains at least some of its concave contour.

43. (New). A wiper system for cleaning ink residue from a printhead in an inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

a support; and

a wiper blade supported by said support to wipe ink residue from the printhead through relative motion between said printhead and said wiper blade, said blade having a leading surface with a concave contour, a first thickness

in a base region and a second thickness in a tip region, wherein said second thickness is less than said first thickness.

44. (New). A wiper system according to claim 43 wherein said blade has a length and wherein said blade tapers along said length to a wiping tip.

45. (New). A wiper system according to claim 43 further comprising a second wiper blade supported by said support and having a leading surface with a concave contour, a first thickness in a base region and a second thickness in a tip region, wherein said second thickness of the second blade is less than said first thickness of the second blade.

46. (New). A wiper system according to claim 45 wherein said wiper blade and said second wiper blade curve inwardly toward each other in said tip regions.

47. (New). A wiper system for cleaning ink residue from a printhead in an inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

a support; and

a wiper blade supported by said support to wipe ink residue from the printhead through relative motion between said printhead and said wiper blade, said blade having a leading surface with a smooth concave contour.

48. (New). A wiper system according to claim 47 wherein said blade has a first thickness in a region adjacent said support and a second thickness in a region

opposite said support, said first thickness being greater than said second thickness.